

This 'Sexual harrassment' lasted about half a minute during which time *aequatorialis* frantically endeavoured to make contact with the tip of the *stellata* abdomen. *Stellata* seemed mildly irritated throughout and eventually flew off. It was not pursued. It is of interest that *aequatorialis* was by far the commoner of the two species at that time; no females were seen.

About mid day, some 500 metres lower down the mountain I was searching for the female of *Colias electo pseudohecate* (Lep: Pieridae) among some short wet grass on a steep slope by the roadside. Males were plentiful and most were fresh but females appeared to be just emerging. As luck would have it, I spotted my first female *electo* when I already had an *Appias* sp. in the net. Having captured the *electo* I despatched both and took them from the net, holding them on my open palm prior to boxing. A worn male *electo* which had been fluttering weakly close to the net (but not around the female prior to capture), then approached the female of his species and, unconcerned that she was now dead, tried to mate with her. I brushed the male gently aside and boxed the female; however, he was not to be discouraged and now redoubled his efforts to mate, this time with the dead female *Appias* resting on my palm. Obtaining no response he gripped her thorax and wing base area and almost succeeded in lifting her off my hand; if he had been in better condition he would perhaps have been successful. It was some moments before he gave up and flew off.

Are these events unusual? I have occasionally seen a butterfly pursue or make advances to an individual of a different (but similar) species, breaking off when the error is realised. I have never witnessed such prolonged and positive aberrant sexual behaviour before; perhaps there's something about the air on Mount Kenya . . . ?!

My thanks to Ms. Sylvia Gould of the Botany Dept., BM(NH), who kindly identified *E. fusca* from a colour print. — W. J. TENNENT, 1 Middlewood Close, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, N. Yorkshire.

COLEOPHORA OCHREA HAWORTH IN KENT. — On 14.viii.1982 I netted a largish *Coleophora* flying in the early evening over open downland near Gillingham; it was very worn but slight traces of silver were still visible and I was confident that it was *Coleophora ochrea*. I revisited the site on 4.vi.1983 to search for the larval cases on *Helianthemum* and upon the first patch of foodplant that I could find, after a few minutes I spotted a leaf that had been eaten by a coleophorid larva and closer inspection revealed two half-grown cases attached to a grass stem. A very careful 'hands-and-knees' search produced a further two cases within about fifteen minutes, one feeding on the upperside of a leaf, the other feeding on the underside. These four were all I was to find despite a concentrated search of about four hours.

I returned on the evening of 10.vi.1983 and was rewarded by finding nine cases in about 1½ hours, most of which were in their final stages of case development. The leaves upon which they were

feeding were very 'blistered' and almost completely hollowed-out. Several cases were found attached upside down to the developing flower heads or on adjacent foliage.

Further cases were found on 11.vi. and 15.vi. although by the latter date the cases were much scarcer and several recent feedings were found but the cases had moved off. The distribution of the cases was very localised, and all were found on the exposed open downland in longish grass; none were under the protection of bushes or at the edge of paths which has previously been suggested as preferred locations.

On the 13.vi. I visited an area of downland at Stockbury to collect fresh foodplant and pausing to glance at the *Helianthemum*, to my delight the first plant I peered at had been eaten by *C. ochrea* and within about half-an-hour further search produced nine cases.

I potted up a few plants leaving them in full sun and later reared a fine series between 20.vi. and 11.viii.1983.

On 23.vi.1907, H. J. Turner in company with Mr. J. Ovenden of Strood records in *Ent. Rec.* 24:281-282 finding larvae in abundance and full fed at Cuxton at a spot where some years before J. W. Tutt had taken the imagines in abundance.

The earliest known Kent record was from Alkham, Nr. Dover, published by H. T. Stainton on 1.vi.1859 in the *Manual of British Butterflies and Moths* volume 2.

Mr. A. A. Allen took two cases at Halling during a South London NHS meeting on 29.vi.1958 — neither case was reared. This locality was referred to by Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt in his 1974 Presidential Address, but it should be noted that the date is therein wrongfully referred to as: 29.v. In any case I visited the site on 27.v. 1981 and was disappointed to find the entire valley had been converted to arable and ley-farming for cattle-grazing. — N. F. HEAL, Fosters, Detling Hill, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.

THE FEEDING HABITS OF PARORNIX (LEP.: GRACILLARIIDAE).

— With regard to the note from N. F. Heal concerning the presence of *Parornix scoticella* (Stainton) in East Kent, comment on his misleading statement that he reared the moths from "*Phyllonorycter*-type mines" gives me the opportunity to correct a similar mistake of my own.

Parornix spp. mine only when young; the larvae later leave their mines and feed within folded leaves. In the case of *P. scoticella* this fold so closely resembles a mine that it has induced entomologists as distinguished as Professor Hering to suppose that the larva continues mining until it is full-fed. This species occurs on an apple-tree in my garden and I have had the opportunity to observe the larva making this deceptive spinning. Hypermetamorphosis takes place in *Parornix* at the second ecdysis; thereafter the larva's jaws are directed downwards and are used for grazing on the surface of the leaf. It can continue feeding in its mine only until it has finished eating the